

COUNTRY <b>GERMANY</b>	REPORT NO. <b>E-58-B-3395</b>	(LEAVE BLANK) <b>LP 142920</b>
<b>AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT</b>		
SUBJECT: (Interviewer) (Editor) <b>SEE CONTENTS BELOW v.2.GATHEN,H.(FN) FIELDS</b>		
AREA REPORTED ON <b>BUKHTA VANINA,CHUKOTSKAYA</b>		FROM (Agency) <b>7050th AISW (USAFE)</b>
KULTBAZA,MAGADAN,IRKUTSK,SVERDLOVSK,USSR		
DATE OF REPORT <b>30 Apr 54</b>	DATE OF INFORMATION <b>Mar 48-Apr 50, Jul 50-Sep 53</b>	EVALUATION <b>F-6</b>
PREPARED BY (Officer) <b>JOSEPH L. FESER, Major USAF</b>		SOURCE <b>272591</b>
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) <b>None</b>		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)		
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Report 58-B-3395 <b>E</b> Rubber Plant RTI in SVERDLOVSK (2IO)		
<b>II. DESCRIPTION OF SOURCE:</b>		
<b>Civilian:</b>		
Education. . . . . 8 years		
Trade or Profession. .RR worker		
Years practiced. . . 5 years		
Present occupation . none		
<b>Military:</b>		
Years of Service. . . . . 3½ years		
Highest rank. . . . . Cpl		
Branch. . . . . Infantry		
By whom captured. . . . . Russians		
<b>SOURCE HISTORY:</b>		
<u>Dates</u>	<u>Camp No</u>	<u>City or Area</u>
Apr 45 - Dec 45	Unknown	BREST
Dec 45 - Jul 47	Unknown	MOSKVA
Jul 47 - Mar 48	Unknown	BOLOTNOE
Mar 48 - Apr 48	Unknown	BUKHTA VANINA
Apr 48 - Feb 50	Unknown	CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA
Feb 50 - Apr 50	Unknown	MAGADAN
Apr 50 - Jul 50	Unknown	DEGTYARKA
Jul 50 - Sep 53	6118/0	SVERDLOVSK
<u>Place of work and duties</u>		
Camp, none		
Housing constr, constr worker		
Camp, Unidentified Plt as laborer		
Camp, none		
Tungsten ore mines, miner		
Camp, none		
Housing constr, constr worker		
Rubber Plt, housing constr constr worker		
<b>III. SOURCE RELIABILITY:</b>		
SOURCE's intelligence was below average. He was willing to cooperate but claimed that he was unable to remember details since he still suffered from a concussion of the brain caused by a traffic accident in SVERDLOVSK. His ability to read maps was below average. Distances estimated by SOURCE were fairly accurate. SOURCE stated that he was very opposed to the Soviet system.		
SOURCE was unable to furnish info which would fulfill any existing intelligence requirements on his return journey to Western Germany and on the areas of BREST (5205N-2343E), MOSKVA(5545N-3735E), BOLOTNOE (5540N-8422E), and DEGTYARKA (5644N-6006E)		
INCLS.		
SEE INDIVIDUAL REPORTS		
APPROVED <i>James H. Nickerson</i> D. M. ALLISON <b>USAF</b> Colonel, United States Air Force Commander		
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COUNTRY  
GERMANY

E-58-B-3395 A

## AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

## SUBJECT:

Observations made on Journey to and from CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZAAREA REPORTED ON BUKHTA VANINA, CHUKOTSKAYA

FROM (Agency)

7050th AISW (USAF)

DATE OF REPORT

30 Apr 54

DATE OF INFORMATION

Mar 48 - Apr 50

EVALUATION

F-6

PREPARED BY (Officer)

JOSEPH L. FESER, Major USAF

SOURCE

272591

REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable)

None

SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)

6635N/17100E

I. PREAMBLE:

While interned in a PW Camp in MOSKVA (5545N-3735E), SOURCE was sentenced by a military court in Jul 47 to 20 years at hard labor for theft of potatoes committed in his PW Camp. After he had been interned in a forced labor camp in BOLOTNOE (5540N-8422E), from Jul 47 to Mar 48, SOURCE was transferred to the tungsten ore mines area near CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA (6528N-17205E) via BUKHTA VANINA (4906N-14016E). From Feb 50 to Apr 50 SOURCE was transferred from CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA to SVERDLOVSK (5650N-6036E) via MAGADAN (5934N-15048E) and IRKUTSK (5216N-10420E). On his journey to and from CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA SOURCE was able to make the following observations. All information is based on SOURCE's own observations unless otherwise indicated.

II. OBSERVATIONS MADE ON JOURNEY TO AND FROM CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA:

SOURCE was detained in BUKHTA VANINA in Mar 48 and interned in a forced labor transit camp. In Apr 48 he embarked, together with 2,000 forced laborers, for CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA at a concrete pier, 300 m long, 100 m wide, in a nearby harbor. Vessels which berthed along the pier were loaded with tractors, trucks, oil drums, food and other goods which arrived by rail and were transloaded by hand and cranes on to vessels. The convoy which left for CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA consisted of an icebreaker and 5 long vessels. Vessels were equipped with guns at bow and stern. Prisoners which had to stay under deck were guarded by MVDmen. SOURCE heard from fellow prisoners that one convoy shipped to CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA once per year since the Bering Straits were navigable for two months only. Due to dense fog vessels stopped several times. On this voyage which lasted 2 weeks SOURCE met no other vessels. When arriving at the harbor CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA, SOURCE heard from fellow prisoners that some forced laborers had been killed in a riot on one of the vessels. The icebreaker cleared the harbor which had one pier, 100 m long, 20 m wide, resting on concrete walls and timber. Only one vessel had room along the pier. Other vessels rode at anchor outside the harbor. Freight of vessels was unloaded by their own cranes and by hand. When prisoners disembarked SOURCE saw that CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA consisted of wooden shacks only. An oil storage yard with an unknown number of vertical oil tanks, 10 m high was at the harbor. Later on SOURCE heard from fellow prisoners that only former forced laborers and military personnel transferred for disciplinary reasons lived in this area. Forced laborers worked in tungsten ore mines. Eskimo tribes who lived isolated in this area were called TSHURCHIS (SOURCE's spelling) by Russians. SOURCE learned from

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AF USAF Wsb Ger 103-10M-5200



## AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)

REPORT NO.

7050th AISSW (USAF)

E-58-B-3395 A

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fellow PWs that these Eskimos traveled often over the ice pack across the Bering Straits to Alaska. Eskimos who bartered with Russians furs and food had brought escaped prisoners to Alaska in former years, but were now keen to get premiums offered by MVD administration for the recapture of escaped prisoners. SOURCE saw no coast defense installations. During 10 months of the year the only connection to the outerworld was by air. There were 2 airfields in the area of CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA. One airfield was on the frozen sea 8 km N of CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA. The other airfield seen from considerable distance was N of the harbor situated in the tundra. Twin-engine aircraft, type Ju-52 and Li-2, flew regularly over the area landing at these airfields. During 8 months of the year the airfield on the frozen sea was used. Aircraft had skid landing gear. Aircraft which shipped clothing, food and personnel to this area left with tungsten ore filled in  $\frac{1}{2}$ -ton drums. SOURCE heard from fellow prisoners that aircraft shuttled between MAGADAN and CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA. When leaving this area in Feb 50 SOURCE was conveyed to the airfield on the frozen sea and transferred to MAGADAN in a Ju-52. Provisional runways on this airfield had been cleared by bulldozers. There were no bldgs except some wooden shacks and a radio station with a steel mast, 15 m high. Seven Ju-52 and 5 Li-2 were parked here. Airfield personnel and pilots were civilians. Aircraft made an intermediate landing at an unlocated snow covered airfield on its way to MAGADAN. Aircraft was filled up and tested by 2 Russian mechanics and left for MAGADAN following always the coast line. During the air lift prisoners were guarded by 2 MVDmen. Aircraft landed at an airfield 8 km W of MAGADAN. Airfield was snow covered. A fuel storage yard with some vertical containers and some wooden shacks were on the S side. Ten Ju-52 and Li-2 parked on the airfield. SOURCE was shipped to a forced labor transit camp near MAGADAN, by truck. Since there were no runways on this airfield SOURCE heard from fellow prisoners that aircraft could only take off and land early in the morning and late afternoon during thaw weather. In Apr 50 when leaving this area by air SOURCE saw that an administration bldg, 40 m long, was under constr on the S side of this airfield.

SOURCE was conveyed with a Li-2 from MAGADAN to IRKUTSK. This aircraft was flown by a civilian pilot. The crew consisted of 3 men including a radio operator. This aircraft made 2 intermediate landings at unlocated, snow covered airfields on its way to IRKUTSK. Aircraft filled up from tank trucks. Arriving at an airfield in IRKUTSK SOURCE saw 3 concrete runways, 40 m wide, and an unknown number of multi-story brick bldgs including administration bldgs and restaurants which surrounded the airfield which was at least  $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  km.. Some twin-engine aircraft Li-2, and some single-engine conventional fighters parked at this airfield. Details unknown. SOURCE was picked up by truck and shipped by rail to SVERDLOVSK.

*Philip N. Ryan, 1st Lt. USAF*  
JOSEPH L. FESER  
Major USAF  
Commander  
7056th AISS

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AFB-121-80M-8822



COUNTRY GERMANY		REPORT NO. E-58-B-3395 B	(LEAVE BLANK)
<b>AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT</b>			
SUBJECT: Tungsten Mining near CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA			
AREA REPORTED ON CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA, USSR		FROM (Agency) 7050th AISS (USAF)	
DATE OF REPORT 30 Apr 54	DATE OF INFORMATION Apr 48 - Feb 50		EVALUATION F-6
PREPARED BY (Officer) JOSEPH L. FESER, Major USAF		SOURCE 272591	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) None			
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclusions at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)			
<p>I. <u>PREAMBLE:</u> While interned in Forced Labor Camps near CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA (6528N-17205E), from Apr 48 to Feb 50, SOURCE worked as a miner in tungsten ore mines. During this period SOURCE was able to make the following observations. All info is based on SOURCE's own observations unless otherwise indicated.</p> <p>II. <u>TUNGSTEN MINING NEAR CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA:</u> There were 11 tungsten ore mines in this area. Deposits were 30 to 60 m underground. Horizontal galleries were blasted and dug. Impure ore mixed with soil was hauled in buckets drawn by a diesel winding engine situated in a wooden shack. Ore was stored near mines prior to washing. Galleries were not propped since the soil was usually frozen and stood without support. When deeper galleries were required, mine was abandoned and a new pit started in the vicinity. Impure tungsten ore was washed in rotary drums, 9 m long, 2 m in diameter, driven by diesel engines. These drums were called TRIBO (SOURCE's spelling) by Russians. However, since large amounts of water were required for this washing process, it could only be carried out in summer. In winter, ore was washed in primitive basins placed in wooden shacks. Water was preheated by immersion heaters. Power was supplied by 2 diesel power plants which were heavily guarded by MVDmen. SOURCE heard from fellow prisoners that these plants supplied power to the whole area. Washed tungsten ore was heavy, black shining and thick as a fist. Ore was filled in <math>\frac{1}{2}</math>-ton buckets which were loaded onto trucks and tractors which shipped buckets to 2 airfields. SOURCE heard from fellow prisoners that all ore was transported away by aircraft. 100 forced laborers worked in one shift in each mine. Three 8-hour shifts were worked. SOURCE heard from fellow prisoners that 7,000 forced laborers were interned in this area guarded by soldiers transferred for disciplinary reasons. Mines were connected by dirt roads. New tractors and trucks were used at each mine. Forced laborers earned money when fulfilling their norms. Food and clothing supplied by camp administration was sufficient. Additional food could be bought in canteens.</p> <p>Winter lasted 9 months in this area with average temperatures -30 to -50 degrees centigrade. During the remaining months temperatures dropped below 0 degrees centigrade at night. Heavy snow storms in Jan and Feb.</p> <p>SOURCE heard from civilians that tungsten deposits in this area had been exploited by Americans in former years. SOURCE was unable to supply any other info.</p>			
0 INCL.		<p><i>Philip H. Rupp, 15th Lt. USAF</i> JOSEPH L. FESER Major USAF for Commander 7058th AISS</p>	
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## AF FORM 112—PART I

APPROVED 1 JUNE 1948

COUNTRY <b>GERMANY</b>	REPORT NO. <b>E-58-B-3395 C</b>	(LEAVE BLANK)
<b>AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT</b>		
SUBJECT <b>U.S. National in Soviet Captivity</b>		
AREA REPORTED ON <b>CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA</b>	FROM (Agency) <b>7050th AISS (USAF)</b>	
DATE OF REPORT <b>30 Apr 54</b>	DATE OF INFORMATION <b>Apr 48 - Feb 50</b>	EVALUATION <b>F-6</b>
PREPARED BY (Officer) <b>JOSEPH L. FESER Major USAF</b>	SOURCE <b>272591</b>	
REFERENCES (Control number, directive, previous report, etc., as applicable) <b>None</b>		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112—Part II.)		
<p><b>I. PREAMBLE:</b> While interned in a Forced Labor Camp near CHUKOTSKAYA KLUTBAZA (6528N-17205E) SOURCE met in Apr 48 a man who claimed to be a U.S. national. All information is based on SOURCE's own observations unless otherwise indicated.</p> <p><b>II. U.S. NATIONAL IN SOVIET CAPTIVITY:</b> When arriving in a forced labor camp in the area of CHUKOTSKAYA KULTBAZA SOURCE was addressed in German by a man who claimed to have been born in the United States. This man was 30 years old, 1.75 m tall, broad shouldered, oval faced and had brown hair. He wore prisoner's clothing with an unidentified brown uniform jacket. He spoke German with an accent and fluent Russian. He told SOURCE that he had been a pilot and was sentenced to 20 years at hard labor for espionage. SOURCE did not know where he was captured. He was already in this camp when SOURCE arrived. Russian prisoners did not like him since he was very friendly with German prisoners. He was always talking about plans for an escape attempt across the Bering Straits to Alaska. When SOURCE was transferred in May 49 he lost trace of this man, but heard from fellow prisoners in Feb 50, that he was still up in this area working in a tungsten ore mine.</p>		
<p style="text-align: right;"> <i>Philip H. Rupp, 1st Lt. USAF</i>  <b>JOSEPH L. FESER</b>  Major USAF  for Commander  7058th AISS </p>		
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